or produce travellers cheques for a similar amount. The Mission would satisfy itself that there is no adverse information against the student and that/she would leave India on completion of his/her studies.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) We have not so far come across any instance of Indian scholars not getting visas for other countries. We are, therefore, not asking for reciprocal visa facilities from other countries. In any case, the Government keep the visa policy under review with a view to making any changes that may be necessary from time to time on grounds of reciprocity.

Occupation of no-man's land by Nepalese people

2621. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepali citizens forcibly occupied 205 acres no man's land near Kishanganj District;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to get the land vacated;

(c) whether it is also fact that this Border is being used freely to smuggle arms and ammunition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to control it?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (a) to (b) The India-Nepal boundary alignment in the district of Kishanganj is already identified by both the Governments and pillars have been jointly demarcated/constructed. Most of the boundary in this sector is riverine. The boundary had been identified on the basis of the fixed boundary principle in which the old river course, as depicted on the basis maps jointly agreed by the two sides, was accepted as the boundary between India and Nepal. However, there has been a change in the course of the river over the years resulting in some land being occupied by citizens of one country now belonging to the other, and *vice versa*, resulting in adverse possessions. There has been an attempt by a few Nepalese farmers to occupy and cultivate the fertile land between Pillar No.(s) 106—109 two years ago *i.e.* in March 2005 on the Indo-Nepal border in Kishanganj district, which was aborted.

The matter has been taken up in the bilateral Coordination Meeting of police officials and in the Joint Meeting of the administrative and police officials in which both sides have agreed to maintain the status quo along no-man's land.

(c) and (d) The Indo-Nepal border is suscepitable to misuse including smuggling, by criminal and anti-social elements. Government have therefore, established bilateral mechanisms with the Government of Nepal such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and talks at the level of the Union Home Secretaries to address issues relating to enhancement of security on both sides of the border. In addition, meetings at district and local levels between officials of both governments are held periodically.

Passport applications with ration card

2622. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ration cards are not taken as proof of Delhi people as their residential addresses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that passport offices refuse to entertain applications which are appended with ration card copy as residential proof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Those applicants who submit ration cards as proof as residence are required to submit an additional document such as certificate from a reputed employer on letterhead, water/telephone/electricity bill, statement of running bank account, Income Tax Assessment Order, Election Commission ID Card, Spous' passport copy and parent's passport copy in the case of minors.

(d) The above decision has been taken in accordance with the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.